



The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Special points of interest:

- From the President
- May Program
- April Meeting Minutes
- Origins of Coax

From the President

Well, it's been a while since we've seen a sun-spot, and my tower has pretty much been retired. So I'm working on lowband antennas. But with the crop of trees on my property, it's doggone hard to do. N4BCD came over today to put a single rope over a tree. Mark is world-class with the crossbow, and he hit his target on his first shot. But after two hours, the trees finally ate the rope. I'm imagining the call of the chainsaw by now. Those trees have eaten my 160, 80, and 40m antennas in recent months.

Yet my spots program in Ham Radio Deluxe is filled up. There are stations out there calling. The big DXpeditions to exotic locations have gone away for a while. Yet the July DXpedition calendar is full. The NJ3K.com website shows 15 of them just this month. Which reminds me that I'll continue the DX quizzes for the rest of the year. Just go to the NG3K website for the answers. Example: Where is E44? Hint: they are QRV today.

The National Contest Journal published an article regarding N5AU's win in the 1986 CQWW phone contest. This is important because N5AU is in Texas, and 1986 was at the bottom of the solar cycle. Normally contest stations near the east and west coasts dominate big contests. The conclusion from the article is that the solar times of the day forced propagation to the south and

away from the coasts. Good things can happen in Alabama even now.

You've probably heard my loud complaints about my new radio not wanting to work to my specifications. But W5WQQ visited recently to see if he could work remotely from my shack. Well, Jack left his Flex 6400M radio on and connected to the internet at his shack. In short order he was able to connect to it from his laptop, then from my Flex Maestro to his radio, then using my cell phone as a hotspot he again reached his radio. Let's see if he can do it during a club meeting. I'd sure like to do that using working lowband antennas other than my own. This is way cool if you haven't seen it before.

AG4W has become an international DXpeditioner. He just returned from the Friedrichshafen Hamfest with a thousand really compelling stories. He may want to share a few at the meeting. While there he got invited to participate in CQWW DX phone at D4C/Cape Verde, off the west coast of Africa in October. Airlines from North America don't go there, and it's a long swim to the continent. Steve already owes us three tech programs, so this one will make it four.

How to Join

* Come to a club meeting;

* or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)

* or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

Zen and the art of Radio Maintenance

July Program by Chuck Lewis, N4NM

Once there was a FTDX-1200. Having recovered once from a nearby lightning strike, it gave a yeoman's service for several years, and then... Hear the rest of the story from Chuck on Tuesday. Get to Newk's around 6:00 pm for dinner, and we'll try to handle the business meeting in short order so that the program can begin by 7:00. You can leave your handkerchiefs at home—it's a happy ending.



June Meeting Minutes

By Chris Reed, AI4U, NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

Attendance

Members 32 & guests 3

Meeting minutes

Bob, K8KI called the meeting to order at 6:42pm. He welcomed our guests and reviewed the DX worked from the roster.

Bob quizzed the attendees on several DX entities. Several members answered correctly on multiple prefixes but AC4G, Bruce got all of them.

Chris covered the financial report. The bank account balance was \$9842.84 as of June 1. The outstanding purchases of banquet tickets and membership dues held in Paypal will put us over \$10,000. Financial report was approved by the membership.

Chris also announced that Ray Smith AB4JI had passed away on May 20.

DX Banquet tickets are on sale and so far 22 have sold as of the meeting. Bob, K8KI has worked with Gigaparts to sponsor the grand prize. The grand prize is a Yaesu FT-DX3000.

Bob, K8KI announced future programs topics include one on the Collins KWM-2 and in October, Kelley, W4VPZ will do one on Ham Shacks.

Kelley, W4VPZ also reminded everyone that the DX Scrapbook was on the website.

Johnny, K4RF provided Chris a roster of members from the early nineties when the club had over 100 members active. He suggested we reach out

and see if any would become active members and support the club.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Ghee Fry, W7LC delivered the program: Space Weather for the DXer.

June Financial Report

By Chris Reed, AI4U

Beginning Balance	\$ 9842.84
Deposits	205.78
Balance as of July 1	10,084.62
Paypal Balance	1,482.64

From the President

(cont'd from p. 1)

A month later, I'm still getting questions about how was the Dayton Hamvention. I had so much fun I may not have noticed. The weather was perfect this time. Got a really nice rental car (good idea), stayed in a really nice hotel, went to a couple of really big banquets, attended Contest University for the first time, met our 2019 DX Banquet speaker, and snagged a 600 watt LDMOS experimental amp for \$50. Now don't ask me if I plan to return next year.

73,

Bob K8KI

The LongPath Staff

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Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Chris Reed, AI4U, Minutes

Bob De Pierre, K8KI, From the President

NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Bob De Pierre, K8KI
Vice President	Warren Alford, K4MMW
Secretary/	Chris Reed, AI4U
Treasurer	
At-large	Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI
Directors	Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

DX Contests for July

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

IARU HF World Championships (SSB/CW), 160 - 10M

July 13, 1200Z to July 14, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus ITU zone; IARU HQ stns send HQ abbrev.

See page 85, July QST and <http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship>

Russian Radio Team Championship (SSB/CW), 40 - 10M

July 9, 0700Z to July 9, 1459Z

Exchange: RS(T) + ITUzone or 3-char. Code

See page 85, July QST and www.srr.ru/championat-rossii-po-radiosvyazi-na-kv-rrtc

RSGB IOTA Contest (CW/SSB), 80 - 10M

July 27, 1200Z, to July 28, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T), S. N., & IOTA# if island

See page 85, July QST and www.rsgbcc.org/hf

European HF Championship (CW/SSB), 160-10M

August 3, 1200Z to 2359Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus year first licensed

See: <http://lea.hamradio.si/~scc/euhf/euhfcrules.htm>

WAE DX Contest, (CW), 80 - 10M

August 10 0000Z, to Aug. 11, 2359Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial #

See: <http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/waedc/en/rules/>



Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals. Beware.

Chuck, N4NM

Secret Agent Ham

By the LongPath Staff

Strange though it may seem, many denizens of NADXC meetings who based on a monthly appearance at Newk's look like your average Jane or Joe Ham are in fact leading double lives. The person sitting across from you next Tuesday may be an agent for the Huntsville Hamfest. I don't mean the attendee who makes a yearly appearance at the VBC South Hall, but maybe a forum presenter. Or one in charge of all those tickets. Or keeping the dealer show flowing smoothly. Or making sure the emphasis at the flea market is on the market and not the fleas.

Indeed, the NADXC offers up its cadre of seasoned personnel to orchestrate the hamfest and try to ensure it goes smoothly. And we receive help from HARC, the MSFC club, and many,

many others. So make sure you do your part by attending the hamfest proper, the DX Banquet, and the many other hamfest events.

Those hamfest agents may not be genuine double-naught spies (well, maybe one or two are) but you can bet they'll appreciate your participation in the hamfest. So show support for the hamfest itself, and for your ham radio brothers and sisters who bring it to you year after year. Two tickets—one for hamfest admission, and one for the DX banquet, will do the trick.